

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 08081 141516Z

46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 NEAE-00 /081 W

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R 141405Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5864

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EG

SUBJECT: MEDIA GEARS UP TO LAUD DISENGAGEMENT

1. ALL EGYPTIAN MEDIA AUGUST 14 USE PRES SADAT'S INTERVIEW WITH LEBANESE WEEKLY AL-HAWADITH AS OPENING SALVO IN TRANSPARENT GOE CAMPAIGN TO DEMONSTRATE IMPORTANCE FOR ALL ARABS OF SECOND-STAGE SINAI DISENGAGEMENT. BANNER HEADLINES PROVIDE OUTLINE OF GOE TACTICS: EGYPT'S POSITION UNCHANGED; HESITATION IN TAKING INCH OF LAND IS TREASON; PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL IS PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE.

2. FULL TEXT OF FIRST INSTALLMENT HAWADITH INTERVIEW IS CARRIED AS FBIS LD131951. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW:

A. GOE POSITION UNCHANGED. AS IN ASWAN, GOE INSISTS ON OIL FIELDS AND PASSES. IF THERE IS NEW STAND, IT IS ISRAEL'S.

B. MOMENTUM. PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL, HOWEVER SMALL, IS PROGRESS; DANGER LIES IN HALT OF PROGRESS. STEP BY STEP

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 08081 141516Z

POLICY IS HELPING MAINTAIN MAOENTUM BUT IS NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR GENEVA.

C. US ROLE. GOE MUST DEAL WITH USG AS IT IS. DOCTOR KISSINGER IS SEEKING IMPROVE "UGLY IMAGE" OF US CREATED BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON. US HAS STILL NOT ANSWERED QUESTION OF WHETHER IT DEFENDS ISRAEL'S CONQUESTS OR DEFENDS ISRAEL WITHIN ITS 1967 BORDERS.

D. SOVIET ROLE. SOVIETS ADVISED NASSER AND SADAT TO BEGIN DIALOGUE WITH US. SADAT ASKED "SOVIET FRIENDS" QUESTION: WAS SOVIET AIRLIFT EQUAL TO US AIRLIFT? "IT WAS AT LEAST TEN STEPS BEHIND." PRES DENIED, REPLYING TO QUESTION, THAT HE SHOULD HAVE TO GET SOVIET APPROVAL FOR GOE AGREEMENT TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SIX POINTS. (COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST ADMITTEDLY MILD, CRITICISM OF SOVIETS SINCE MINFIN ABU ISMAIL EMBARKED ON UNSUCCESSFUL TRIP TO MOSCOW JULY 22.)

E. EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM UN. ISRAEL IS NOW RPT NOW ISOLATED INTERNATIONALLY AND DECISION TO EXPEL MIGHT REVERSE MATTERS SO THAT ISRAEL WOULD AGAIN BE ABLE TO "POLARIZE" USG (I.E., ISRAEL/COULD FORCE US AWAY FROM BROKER POSITION.) SADAT SAID HE HAS WARNED ARAFAT THAT ARABS MUST RETAIN UNANIMITY OF DECISION GAINED IN 1973.

3. LOCAL PAPERS GIVEN FRONT PAGE COVERAGE ALSO TO ISRAELI LEADERS' STATEMENTS SUPPORTING NOTION OF DISENGAGEMENT.

4. AFTER LONG EDITORIAL SILENCE ON QUESTION OF DISENGAGEMENT, AKHBAR TEES OFF AGAINST REJECTIONIST OPPOSITION TO NEW DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. GUMHURIYYA COMMENTARY PREDICTS EGYPT WILL PROFIT POLITICALLY, MILITARILY, ECONOMICALLY AND STRATEGICALLY FROM NEW AGREEMENT.

5. SPECULATION ON EXACT TIME SECRETARY MIGHT VISIT CAIRO IS LIMITED ONLY TO AHRAH WHICH CLAIMS HE WILL ARRIVE IN ABOUT ONE WEEK. BBC AND REUTER ITEMS QUOTING PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY BASHIR ON THIS SUBJECT ARE NOT CARRIED IN LOCAL PRESS. WE HAVE NOT TALKED TO BASHIR THIS MORNING BUT RELIABLE JOURNALIST WHO SAW HIM LAST NIGHT SAYS HE IS VERY ANGRY THAT BBC AND REUTER RAN "UNAUTHORIZED" STORY THAT SECRETARY WOULD ARRIVE BY END OF NEXT WEEK.

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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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